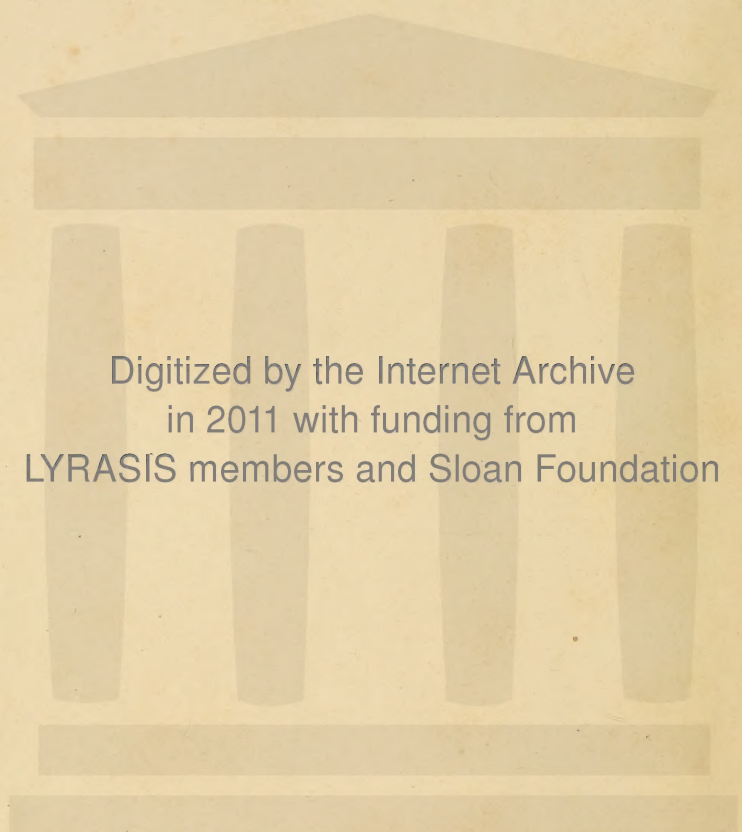


THE HOMES
OF OUR
FOREFATHERS
MASS.

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Gordon Russell Fisher

Dec. 1882.



THE HOMES OF OUR FOREFATHERS.

BEING A SELECTION OF THE

Oldest and Most Interesting Buildings, Historical Houses,
and Noted Places in Massachusetts.

FROM ORIGINAL DRAWINGS MADE ON THE SPOT

BY

EDWIN WHITEFIELD.

THIRD EDITION.

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BOSTON:
A. WILLIAMS AND COMPANY.

283 WASHINGTON STREET.

1880.

TO THE READER.

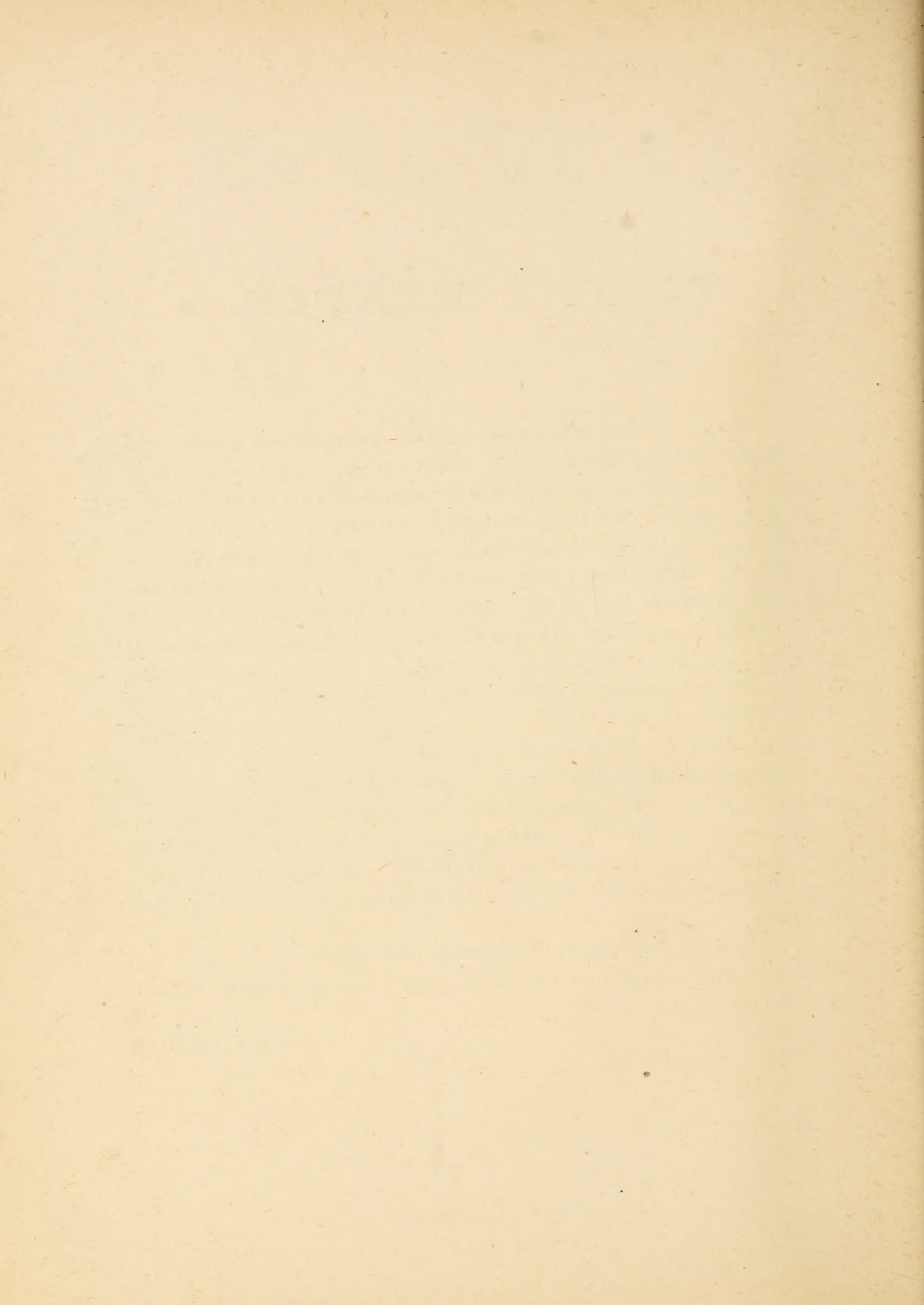
THE object of this book is to preserve and hand down to all future posterity representations of the Homes of their Forefathers. From a variety of causes they are rapidly disappearing; and before long the places that now know them will know them no more. It has been a labor of love to the undersigned to collect these mementoes of the past, and his efforts have been ably seconded by many gentlemen to whom his thanks are hereby returned. He has labored under many disadvantages which cannot be here enumerated; but he has tried to do his work faithfully, and no liberties have been taken with the old buildings represented, or with their surroundings, merely for pictorial effect. It is true that a few houses have been slightly altered from what they *are* to what they *were* originally; and sometimes an indifferent object, such as an old barn, or it may be a tree, has been left out or pushed aside to show the building to better advantage. Thus, if not photographically correct, they are sufficiently so for all practical purposes.

Many persons will ask why Plymouth is so poorly represented. It is much to be regretted that so little which is old remains there; and every one who visits the place is, in consequence, disappointed. Yet it must be borne in mind that Kingston was originally a part of Plymouth, and the old houses shown in that town are practically Plymouth houses; so that, upon the whole, Plymouth is not so poorly represented as might at first sight appear.

With these preliminary remarks he respectfully offers his book to all who are interested in the early history of those who laid the foundations of this Commonwealth, trusting it will meet with their approval.

E. WHITEFIELD.

BOSTON, MASS., July, 1880.



DATE OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

IN THE

EARLY HISTORY OF NEW ENGLAND.

Cape Cod, so named by Capt. Gosnold and his company	1602
Settlement by Popham and Gilbert on the Kennebec River, but soon afterwards abandoned	1607
The Pilgrims landed at Cape Cod, November 11, and then and there entered into a solemn covenant, and chose John Carver as their governor	1620
The Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, and decided to make a settlement there, December 22	1620
Weston's Colony settled at Weymouth	1622
Rev. Mr. White, a minister of Dorchester, England, induced a number of persons, under a Mr. Winslow, to commence a settlement at Cape Ann	1624
Endicott's Colony landed at Salem	1628
Boston settled; although Blackstone built a house here three or four years previously	1630
Roger Williams ordered to leave Salem	1634
Connecticut settled at Windsor, by men from Dorchester, Massachusetts	1635
Mr. Hooker, with one hundred persons, left Cambridge, and settled Hartford, Connecticut	1636
Rhode Island settled by Roger Williams	1636
Pequot War in Connecticut broke out	1637
Massachusetts, Connecticut, Plymouth, and New Haven formed a confederacy for mutual protection	1643
The first witch trial in New England (Margaret Jones, of Charlestown)	1648
Silver money first coined by Massachusetts	1652
Plymouth and Massachusetts united	1652
Persecutions of the Quakers commenced	1656
The King Philip War broke out	1675
The French and Indian War commenced, and lasted seven years	1690
Witchcraft troubles at Salem	1692



The Bradford House Plymouth.

This house once stood on Town Square, and it is believed that Gov. Bradford lived in it; but this like all the other dwellings of the Pilgrims has been swept away by the ruthless hand of "Improvement."



The Barker House, Pembroke.

The oldest house in New England!

This was commenced by Josiah Barker in 1628, who, accompanied by Fred Davis, a colored man, started from Plymouth in a ship boat and followed the shore until they reached the mouth of North River. This they ascended until they found a place suitable for building, and here they commenced this house. It has never passed out of possession of this family, and is now owned by Pleg Barker, who is at the present time (1882) 165 years of age. The house stands about 8 miles from either the Kingston or Hanover R.R. Stations.



The Bradford House, Kingston.

This house was built by a grandson of Gov. Bradford, about 1675. It is in a tolerable state of repair, and is situated on high ground near the Landing.



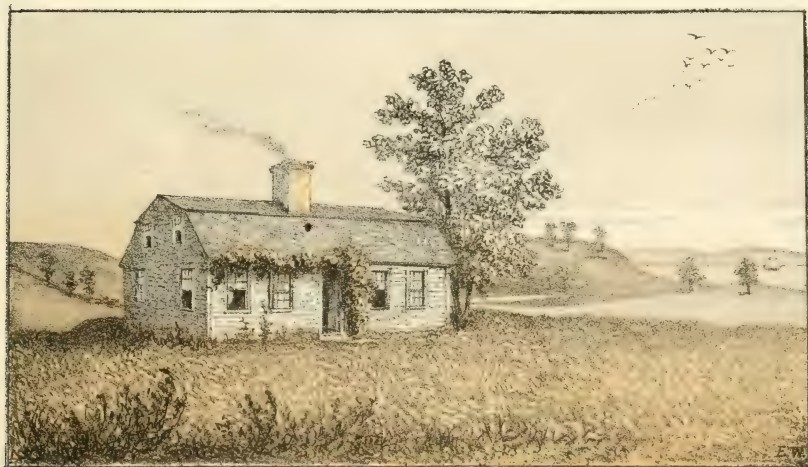
The Allerton or Cobb House, Kingston.

This house, or rather a portion of it, is supposed to have been built by Isaac Allerton about 1640, but there is some doubt about this. It was afterwards owned by Ebenezer Cobb, who died here in 1801, aged 107 years and 8 months. It stands in the south-eastern part of the town, near the the road leading to Plymouth.



The Alden House, Duxbury.

This was built by John Alden, son of the John Alden who came over in the Mayflower. It was erected about 1653, and has been but little changed from its original appearance. It stands on high ground very near the R.R. Station. It has never passed out of the family, and an eighth generation of John Aldens is now (1880) living in it.



The Standish House, Duxbury.

This house is believed to have been built by Alexander, son of Capt. Standish about 1666. The Captain's house stood about 1/4 mile distant; but of this no vestige remains except the cellar.



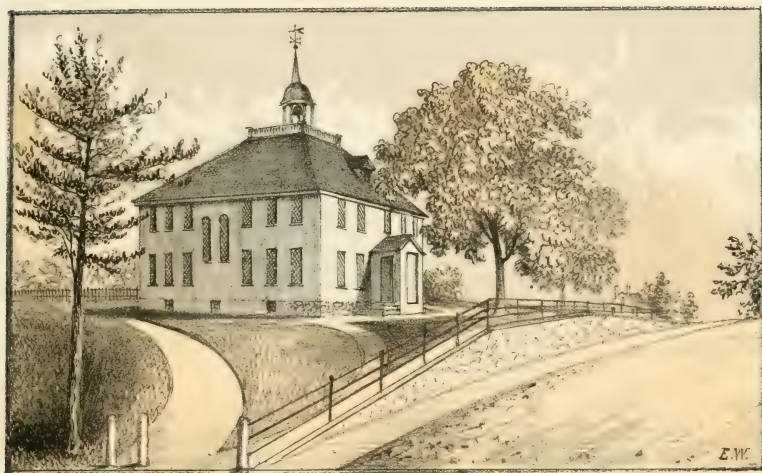
The Lincoln House, Cohasset.

The right hand portion of this house is said to have been built by Indians on Green Hill, about 200 years ago, and was removed to where it now stands by Ephraim Lincoln about 1770. It is situated close to the Jerusalem Road, about 3 miles from Cohasset Village.



The Nichols House, Cohasset.

This house was probably built about 1680 by Job Cushing. It is now owned by James W. Nichols. It stands on King Street, about a mile from the village.



The Old Meeting House, Hingham.

This was built in 1680, and is the oldest Meeting House now standing in N. England; and, although it has been enlarged, still preserves its original form and style. It stands on high ground, near the main street, and from the belfry there is a charming & extensive view. It is sometimes called "The Ship."



The Wayside Inn, Sudbury.

*"As ancient is this hostelry
As any in the land may be,
Built in the old Colonial day,
When men lived in a grander way,
With simpler hospitality,
A kind of old Hobgoblin Hall,*

*Now somewhat fallen to decay
With weather stains upon the wall,
And stairways worn and creaky doors,
And creaking and uneven floors
And chimneys huge and tiled and tall"*
Longfellow.



The Fairbanks House, Dedham.

This was built by Jonathan Fairbanks in 1636, and has always belonged to his descendants. It stands not far from the R.R. Station at the corner of Willow & East Streets.



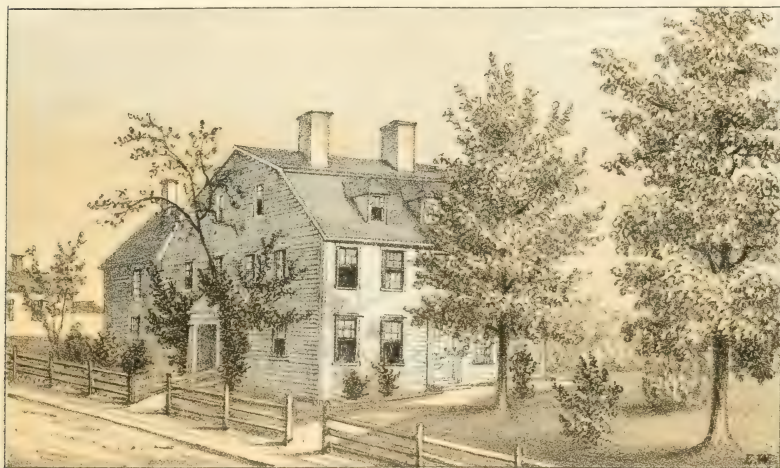
The Adams Houses, Quincy.

These are situated on Franklin St., and were built at least as early as 1720, but the exact time cannot be ascertained. President John Adams was born in the right-hand house, & John Quincy Adams in the one on the left-hand.



The Longfellow House, Cambridge, Mass.

This house, surpassing in interest almost any other in New-England for having been so long the head-quarters of Gen. Washington and for now being the home of the poet Longfellow, stands on Brattle St. It was probably built in 1735 by John Vassal, since which it has undergone several changes of ownership.



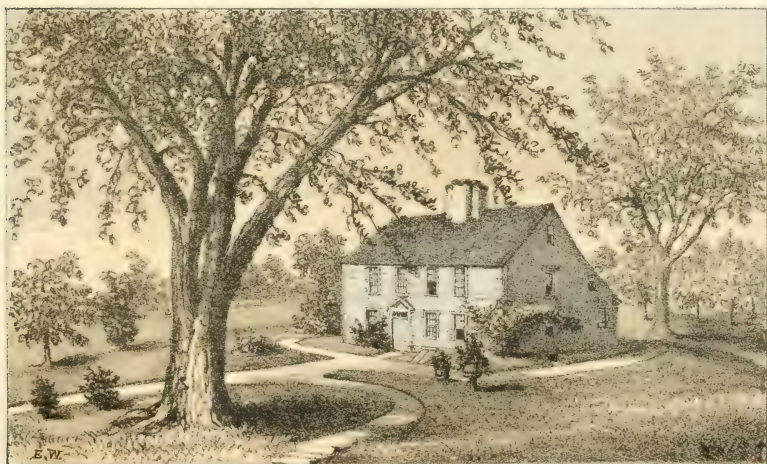
The Holmes House, Cambridge.

This was built by Jacob Fox about 1730, and is the birth-place of Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes. It was occupied by the Committee of Safety in 1775, and Washington also occupied it for three days. It is now owned by Harvard College.



The Pierce House, Dorchester.

This house was built by Robert Pierce 1640 and occupied by him until his death in 1664; since which time it has remained in the possession of his lineal descendants. It stands on Oak Avenue, Adams street.



The Curtis House, W. Roxbury.

This was built by W.^m Curtis in 1639, and has always been in the possession of his descendants. Gen. Washington occupied it for a short time at the commencement of the Revolutionary War. It stands very near the Boylston station of the Providence R.R.



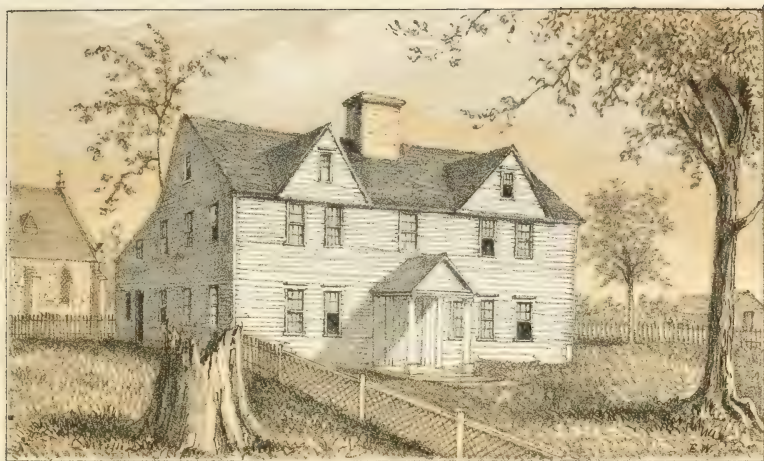
The Brown House, Watertown.

This house, or a portion of it, was built by Abraham Brown about 1632, thus making it one of the very oldest houses in N. England. It stands near Main St. on the road to Waltham. The name is sometimes spelled Browne.



The Cradlock House, Medford.

This is the first brick house erected in New England in the year 1634, by, or rather for, Matthew Cradlock, the first Governor of the Mass. Bay Colony. He never came to this country, although it was evidently his intention so to do. This house is in the outskirts of Medford on the road to Malden. It certainly ought to be owned by the State of Mass.



The Aspinwall House, Brookline.

The Aspinwall mansion on Aspinwall Avenue, was built by Peter Aspinwall in 1660, has never been out of the possession of his descendants of the name, and is now (1880) owned by Hon. W^m Aspinwall of Brookline.



The Hammond House, Newton.

This was built by T. Hammond about 1730, and has ever since remained in the possession of his descendants. It is situated in the eastern portion of the city, or or near Chestnut Hill.



The Hubbard House, Concord.

This was probably built about 1670, and was torn down recently. It stood near the Common, and in the cellar were concealed many military stores at the time of the Concord Fight in 1775.



The Old Manse, Concord.

This was built by order of the Rev. W.^m Emerson in 1775. He was the grandfather of Ralph Waldo Emerson, who gave it its present well-known name. It stands a short distance from the celebrated North Bridge.



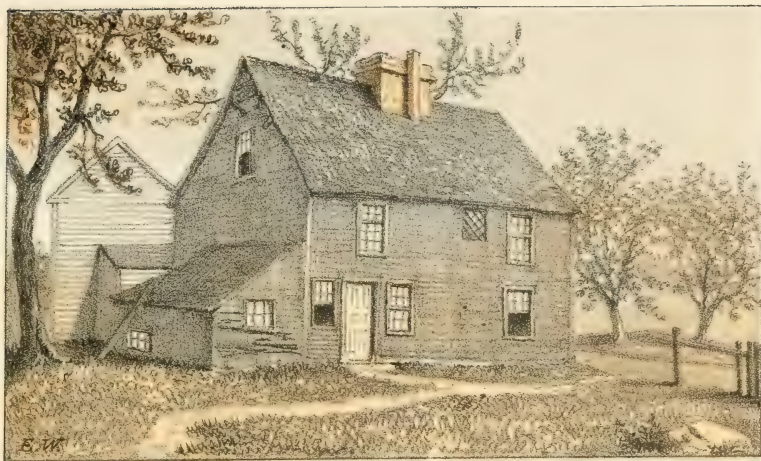
The Munroe House, Lexington.

This well-known house is probably 170 years old. At the breaking out of the Revolution it was known as the Munroe Tavern, and on April 19th 1775 was the headquarters of Lord Percy, and here his wounded soldiers were dressed after the battle.



The Tidd House, Lexington.

This was built by an ancestor of the present owner (Chas. Tidd) about 1684. Mr. Tidd's grandfather, John Tidd, was one of the company under Capt. Parker, who on the morning of Apr. 19th 1775, opened the great drama of the American Revolution, and in which he was badly wounded.



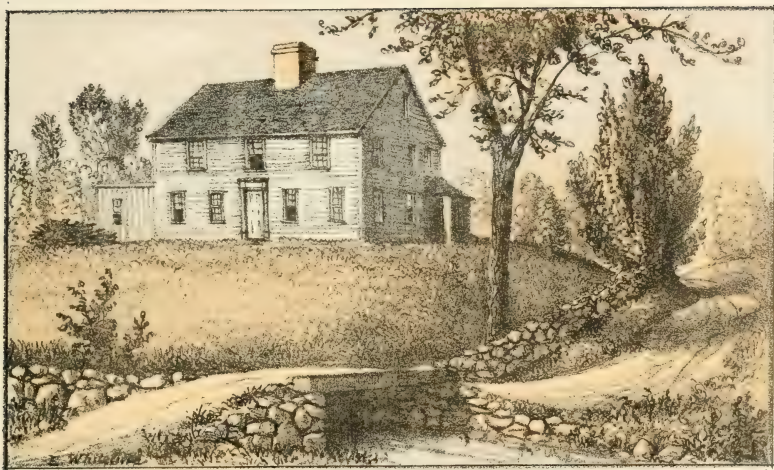
The Cutter House, Woburn.

This house must be at least 200 years old, but the exact date cannot be ascertained with certainty. In 1789 it was owned by Benj. Simmonds, and here the Episcopal Society held their services. It is now owned by Jesse Cutter, and is the only old house in which a genuine old-fashioned diamond-paned window is still to be seen.



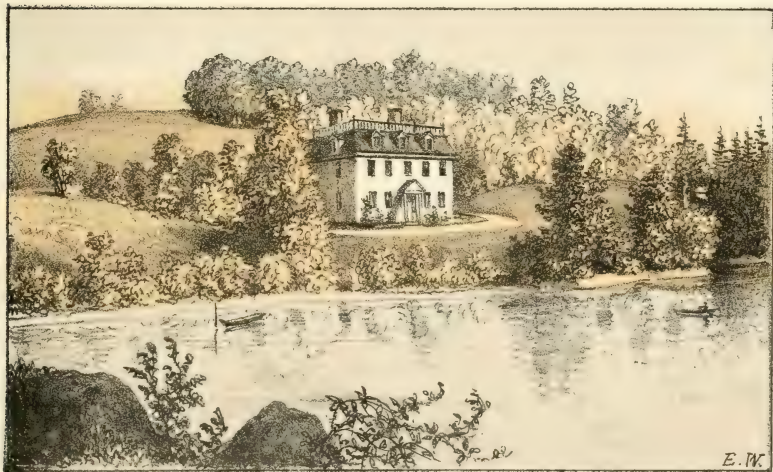
The Rumford House, Woburn.

In this house the celebrated Count Rumford (Benjamin Thompson) was born. It was probably built by his grandfather at least as early as 1720, if not before. It stands in North Woburn.



Birth-place of John G. Whittier, Haverhill.

This house was built by Thos. Whittier (an ancestor of the Poet) who came over from England in 1630, and settled first in Salisbury, removing thence to Newbury, and afterwards to Haverhill, where he built a small house near the present one, which latter he erected about 1665. It originally sloped to one story at the back, but was afterwards raised to its present proportions. It stands near the turnpike leading to Amesbury, about 3 miles out of Haverhill.



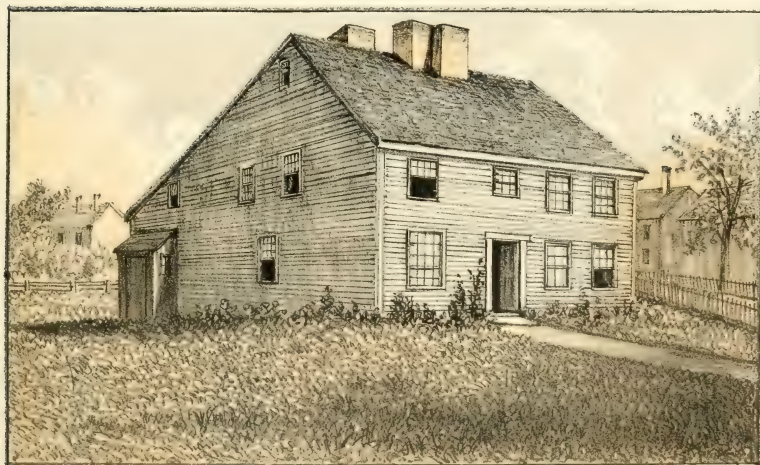
The Saltonstall House, Haverhill.

This house was built about 100 years ago by Dr. Nath. Saltonstall on the north side of Merrimac St., nearly opposite where the Post Office now is. It commanded a charming view of the Merrimac River and the surrounding country. It was removed to its present location on Saltonstall Lake by his grandson, W. G. Howe Esq. of Haverhill.



The Floyd House, Revere

This was the second house built in this part of the town, then called Romney Marsh, probably about 1670. It stands by the road leading to Revere Beach.



The Edmester House, Everett.

This house stands on Bow St. and is 220 years old. It was built by a man named Sweetser.



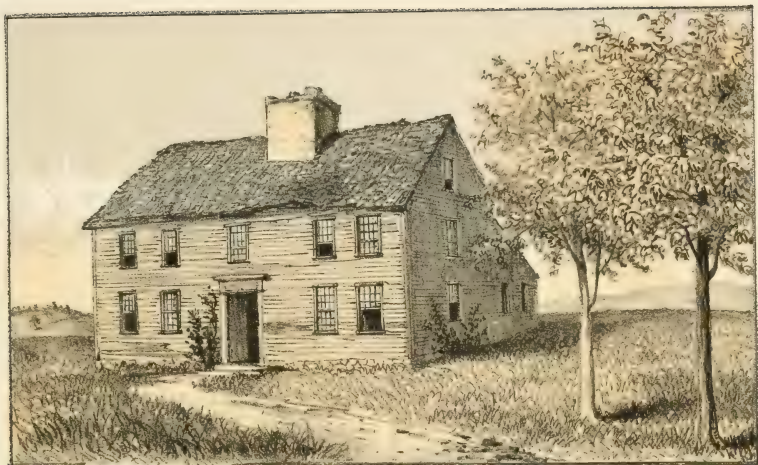
The Carter House, Wilmington

This is a very old house, having probably been built as early as 1720. It stands in a very lonely part of the town, and has never been clap boarded, nor painted. It is still in the possession of the Carter family.



Dracut Garrison House, Lowell

This house was built about 1884 for a garrison house, in the town of Dracut, but is now included within the limits of Lowell. It stands on the river road about a mile below Pentucket bridge.



The Danforth House, Billerica.

This was probably built about 1680 by the ancestor of the Danforth family. Several of this family were quite noted men in the early history of this part of the country, one, in particular, was a celebrated surveyor. This house stood nearly in the center of the village but it is now probably pulled down.



The Batchelder House, N. Reading.

This is probably the oldest house in N. Reading. It was built by a man named Batchelder at least 170 years ago, but has now passed out of that family. It stands on a bye road near Lobb's Pond.



The Humphrey House, Swampscott.

This house stands on the farm of B. R. Mudge, and is one of the oldest in N. England, having been built in 1634 by John Humphrey or Humphrey, who was a native of Dorchester, England, an able and wealthy man. He was deputy Governor of the Colony. The frame and timbers used in the building were brought from England. It has been somewhat modernized.



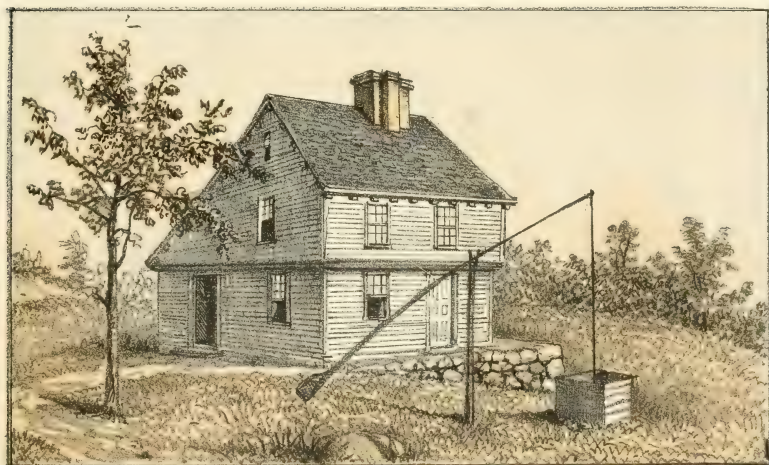
The Peabody House, Danvers.

This house, now owned & occupied by Francis Peabody, Esq., is known as the Head-Quarters of Genl. Gage, and was built by Robt. Hooper of Northhead in 1754. Thos. Gage, Royal Governor of Mass. removed here from Boston June 5th 1774, and made it his residence. The architectural proportions & details are very fine, & great care has been taken in their preservation. It is considered one of the best examples of houses built in N. England during the last century of the Colonial period.



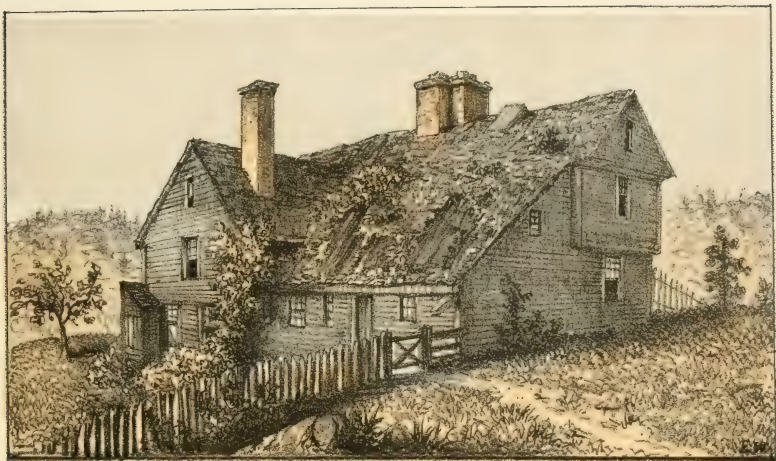
The Endicott or Nurse House, Danvers.

This house was built by Townsend Bishop in 1640, and was afterwards owned and occupied by John Endicott, son of the Governor. It afterwards passed into the possession of the Nurse family, and here lived Rebecca Nurse, one of the victims of the Witchcraft mania. It is now owned by Orrin Putnam.



The Moulton House, Lynn.

This is a very old house, but the exact date of its erection is uncertain. It was partially remodelled by the father of Jas. T. Moulton. It stands near Boston Street.



The Lynde House, Melrose.

This house was built about 1680 about the time of the King Philip War. It stands in the south-western part of the town near Washington Street.



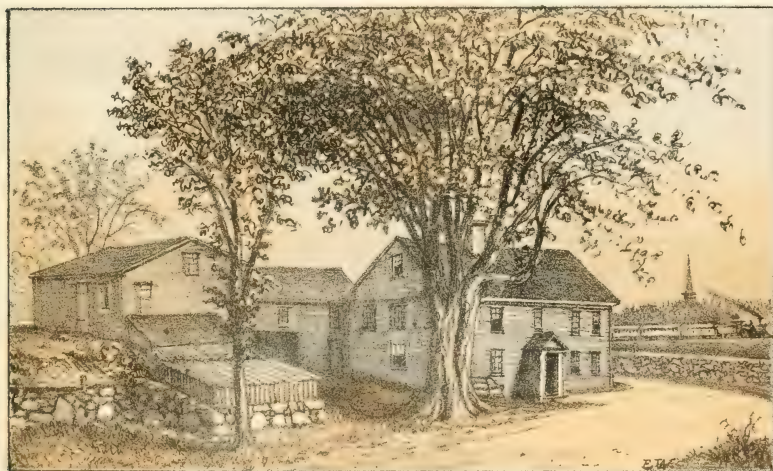
The Iron Works House, Saugus.

This house was built by the Leonards, who here commenced the manufacture of iron, about 1643. One of the brothers removed to the neighborhood of Taunton. The business was carried on here for 100 years afterwards. The chimney of this house is of immense size, and is probably the largest in N. England. The exterior has been somewhat modernized.



The Bradstreet House, North Andover.

This was built about 1735 by Gov. Bradstreet. It stands on the Andover turnpike nearly opposite the Phillips House.



The Abbott House, Andover.

This is a very old house, on the road to Ballardvale, built probably about 150 years ago, but nothing that is reliable can be ascertained in regard to it.



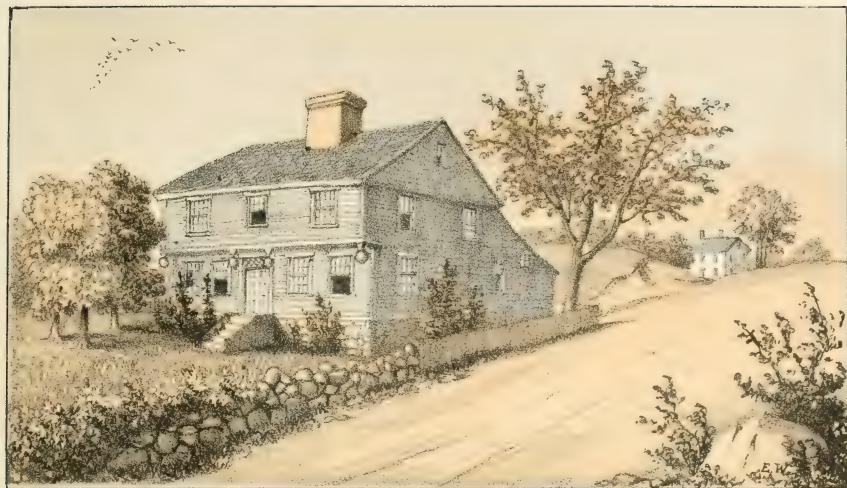
The Saltonstall House, Ipswich.

This was built by Richard, eldest son of Sir Richard Saltonstall, about 1635, and is a very interesting old building, both externally and internally. The lower part is filled in with brick and stone and is bullet-proof. It stands a short distance from the Station. It is sometimes called the Bored House.



The Sutton House, Ipswich.

This house was built by the grandfather of Gen. Sutton, and is probably about 200 years old. It stands in the eastern part of the village.



The White or Ellery House, Gloucester.

This was built by Rev. John White 1703; and for some years after his death was used as a Town House. It is very strongly built, and the chimney is of immense size. It stands on Washington St. about a mile from the R.R. Station. The 4 balls shown in front of the house are gone.



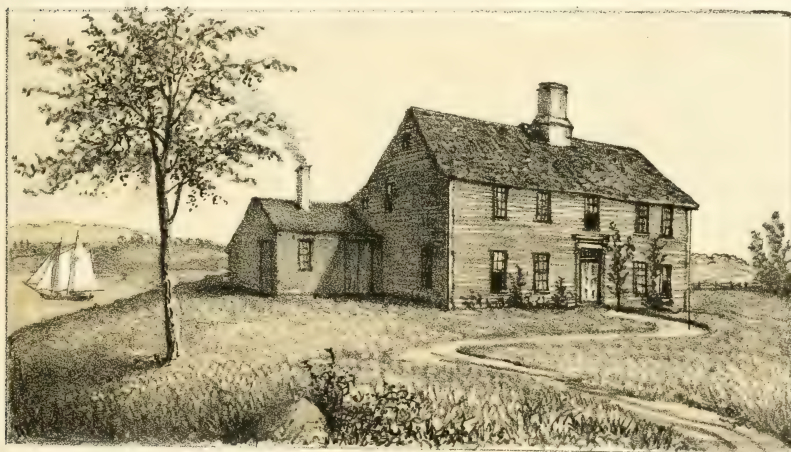
The Gott House Rockport.

This house was built by a man named Gott abt 1700, and has continued in the possession of his descendants until the present time. It stands near the water, in that part of the town called Pigeon Cove.



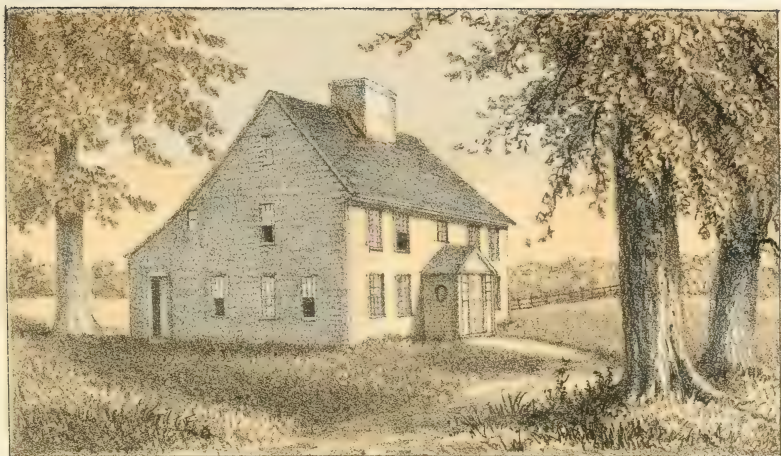
The Wells Mansion, Dorchester.

This house was probably built by a man named Jones, and is probably more than a hundred years old. It is surrounded by fine trees and stands near Washington St.



The Jacobs House, Danvers.

Geo Jacobs, who was executed for witchcraft in 1692 (being then 80 years of age) bought this place of Rich. Waters in 1658, then consisting of a house and 10 acres of land; so that this building is probably about 230 years old. It is still in the possession of the Jacobs family.



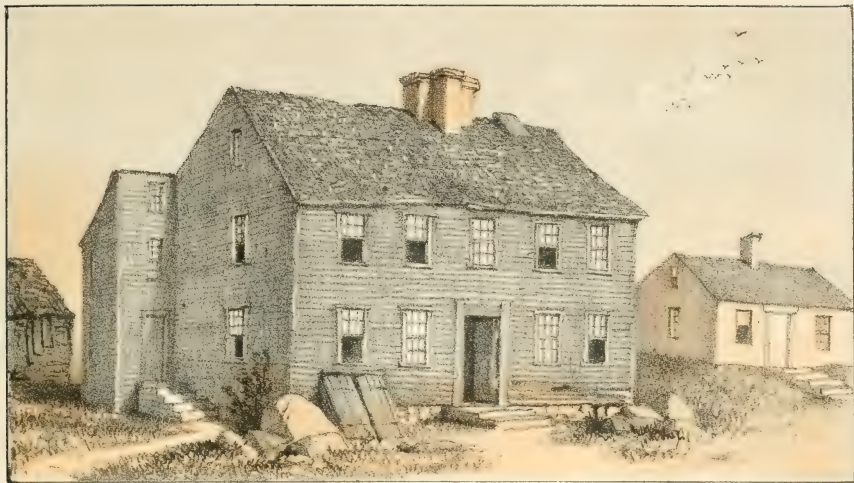
The Fowler House, Danvers.

This farm was bought in 1636 by Dan.^d Rea, and he or his son probably built this house; at all events his grandson lived here in 1692. It has since changed hands several times, and is now owned by Aug. Fowler.



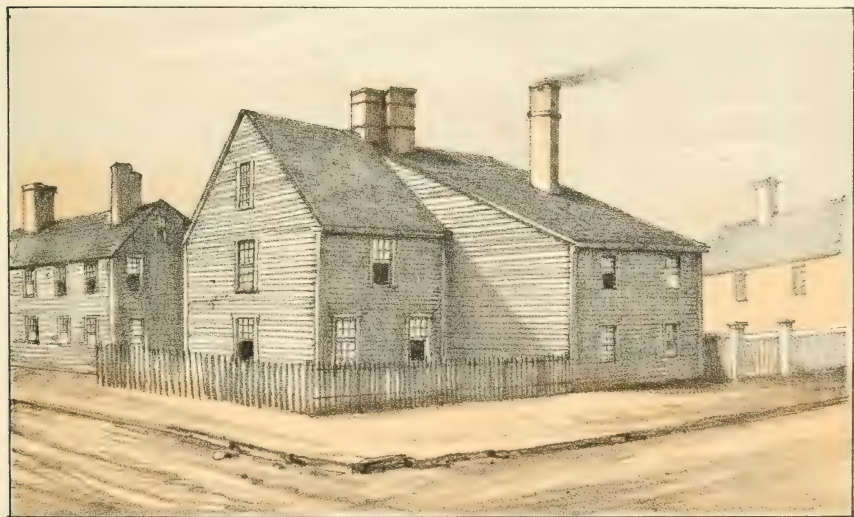
Gen. Putnam's Birth-place, Danvers.

Here Gen. Putnam was born in 1718, and the room remains in its primitive condition, but the house has been considerably changed and added to since the older portion was erected. The latter is about 200 years old. It stands not far from the new Lunatic Asylum.



The Palmer House, Salem.

This is on High Street Court, and was built by Richard Palmer in 1675. It is believed to be the oldest house in Salem that has never been modernized, except perhaps in the windows.



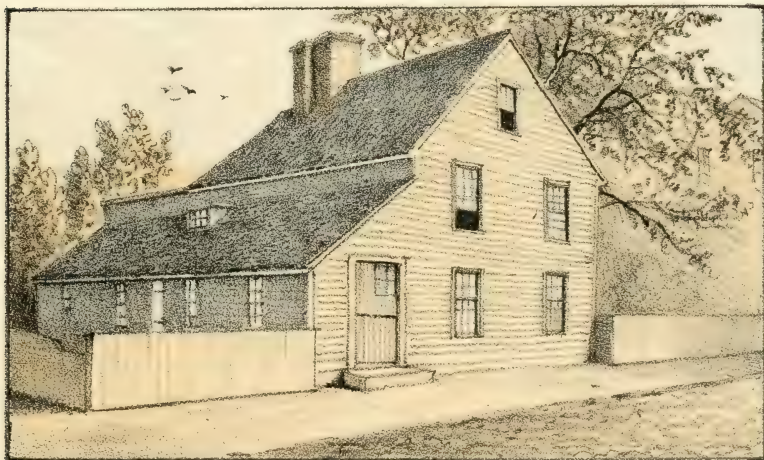
The Prince House, Salem.

This stands at the corner of Pleasant & Forrester Sts., and was built by Richard Prince, deacon of the first church in Salem, about 1670. The projecting portion is undoubtedly much more modern.



The Roger Williams House, Salem.

This I believe to be as nearly correct a representation of this noted house as is now possible to be made, considering the many changes it has at various times undergone. It was built for & occupied by Roger Williams in 1633, and afterwards owned by Capt. Rich. Darnport. It was purchased in 1675 by Jonathan Corwin Esq. and continued in the possession of his descendants until 1856, when it was bought by Dr. Farrington.



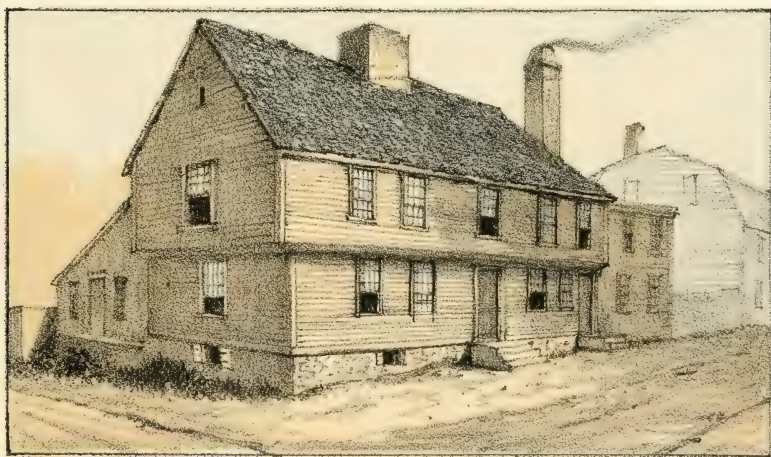
The Narbonne House, Salem.

This is on Essex St. near Pleasant, and was first owned by Capt. Simon Willard, and it is doubtless about 200 yrs. old. It has been very little changed from its original appearance.



The Turner House, Salem.

The land was bought of the widow Moore 1668, by John Turner, and the oldest part of this house was probably built by him soon afterwards. It was sold by Turner to Sam^l Ingersoll in 1692. Nath. Hawthorne used to be a frequent visitor at this house. It stands near the water at the foot of Turner Street.



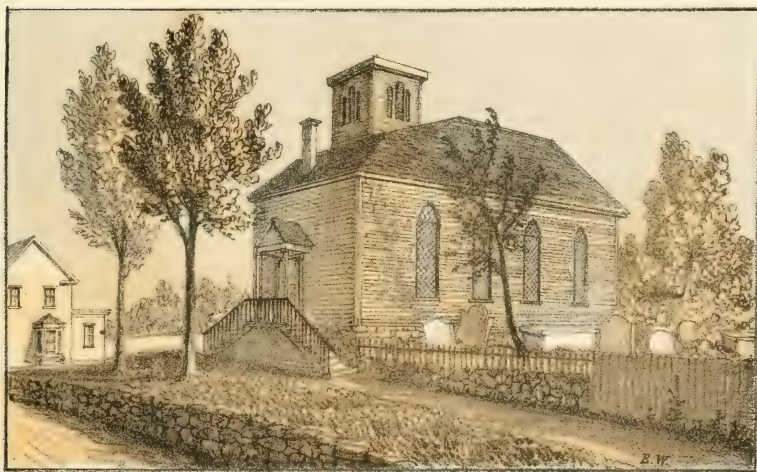
The old Bakery, Salem.

This is supposed to have been built by Christopher Waller, one of the first settlers, and must therefore be upwards of 200 years old. It stands on St. Peter Street. Near this place Lady Annabella Johnson and others, who perished in the severe hardships of the winter of 1629-30, were buried.



The Moll Pitcher House, Marblehead.

This house, built about 1720, was the birthplace of the noted Moll Pitcher, who was born here in 1743. It stands on Orne Street.

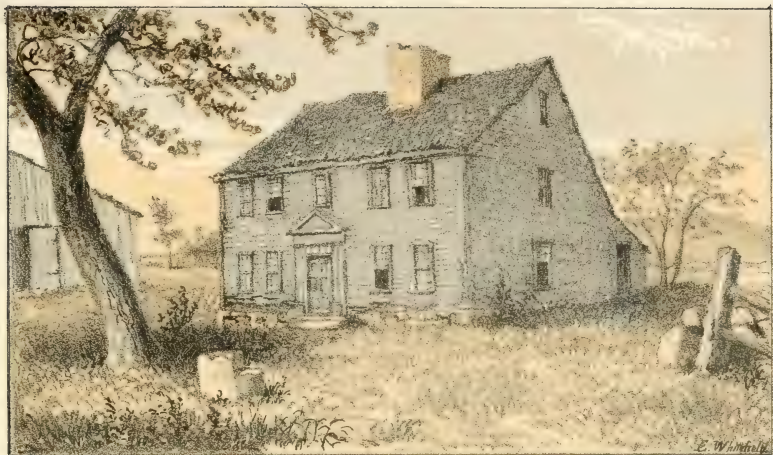


St. Michael's Church, Marblehead.

This was built in 1714, and is probably the oldest Episcopal Church in N. England. It stands on Summer Street. The following lines by Whittier are very appropriate.

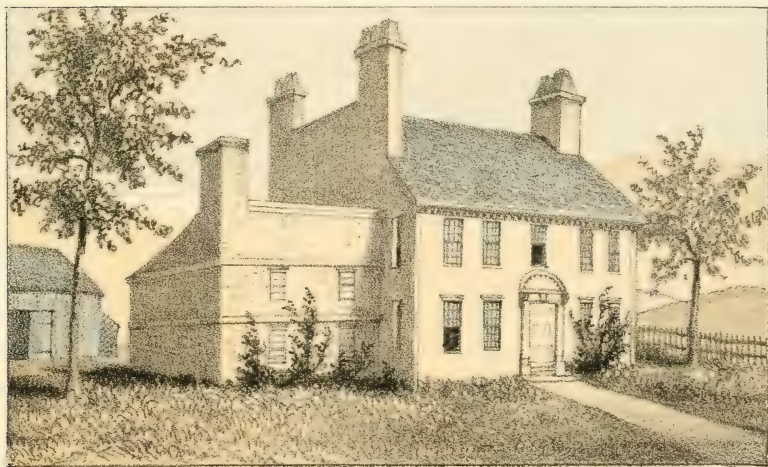
*Church to reverend memories dear,
Quaint in dash and chandelier;
Bell, whose century-rusted tongue,
Burials told, and bridal ring*

*Loft, whose tiny organ kept
Keys, that Smetzer's hand had swept,
Altar, o'er whose table old
Smailes low its thunder rolled."*



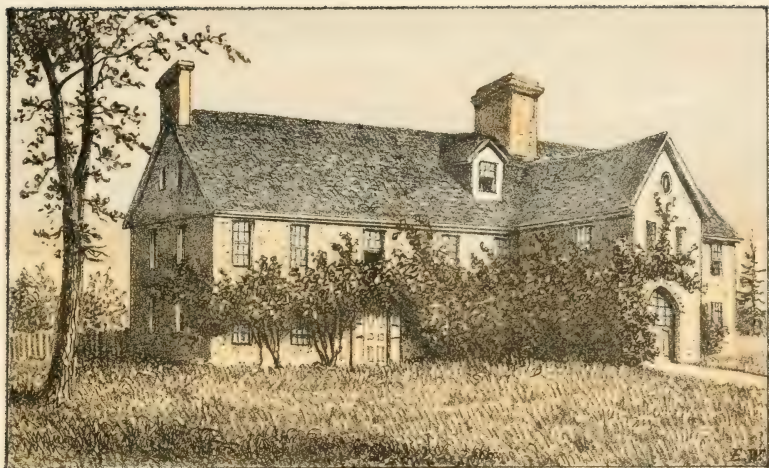
The Longfellow House, Byfield.

This was built by W^m Longfellow, ancestor of the poet, about 1686. It stands in the Parish of Byfield, Town of Newbury, has not been occupied for some time, and will probably be shortly taken down.



The Dummer Mansion, Byfield.

This was built by Gov. Dummer about 1700. The Dummer Academy which he built and endowed stands close by, and is still kept up, although only about a dozen pupils attend it. The location of this house is a very fine one.



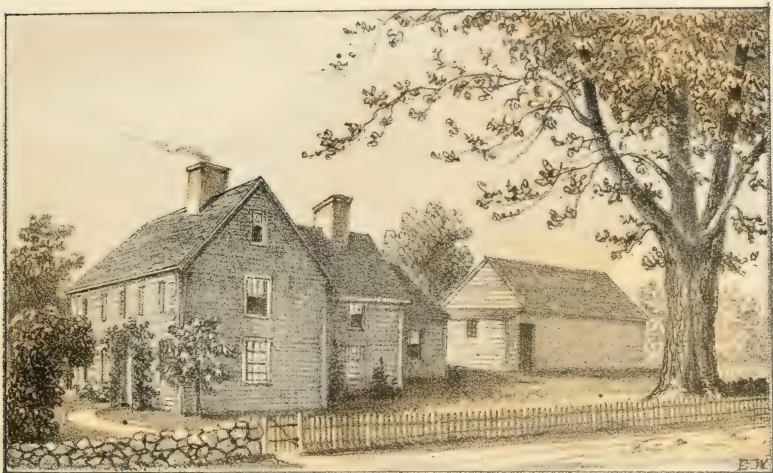
The Pierce or Little House, Newbury.

This was built by Col. Daniel Pierce, an ancestor of President Pierce, about 1685, and is the finest mansion now remaining in Mass. of so early a date. It was built for a Garrison House, the larger portion being of stone, brick, and the walls are very thick. The center chimney is of enormous size. It has passed through many changes of ownership, and now belongs to a Mr. Little. It stands back some distance from the street beyond the Old Town Church.



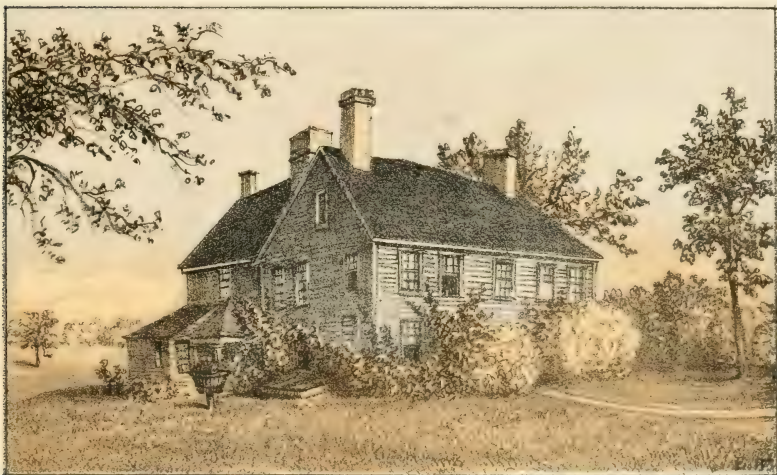
The Poore or Poor House, Newbury

This was probably built by a man named Spence, about 1640 and afterwards sold to John Poor, whose descendants still live here. It stands close to the turnpike a short distance below Parker River.



The Noyes House, Old Newbury.

This was built by the Rev. Jas. Noyes, about 1636. It stands a short distance to the right of the Upper Green, not far from the Old Town church.



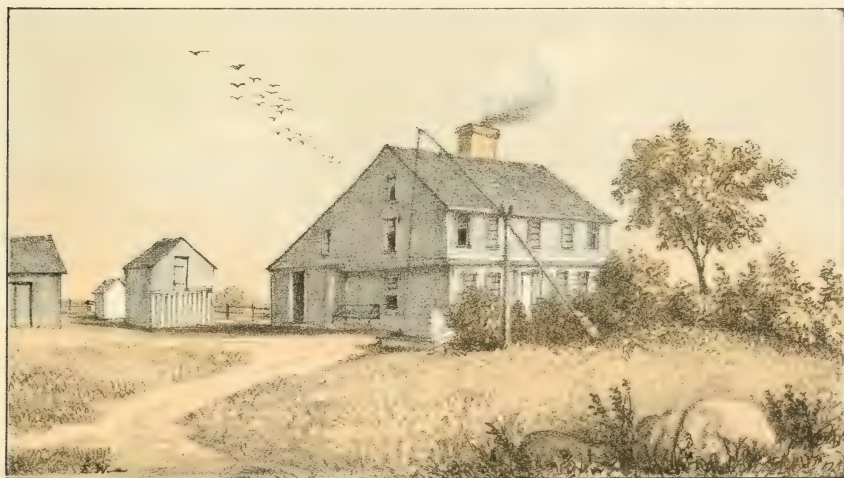
The Coffin House, Newbury.

This was probably built by Fridam Coffin, about 1650, before he removed to Salisbury in 1654. It is most likely that the front portion was erected much later, as the rear part is evidently much the older of the two. It stands on High St. very near the Old Town church.



The Clark House, Rowley.

This house was built by a man named Chaplin about 1670. It is now owned by Moses Clark.



*The Ober House,
Wenham.*

This house was built about 1680. It is about a mile from the R.R. station, on the road to Danvers.

